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Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected claims 11-15 as being unpatentable over Shirasaki (US-5,522,395) in view of Park (US 2002/0183631), and claims 21-25 as being unpatentable over Shirasaki in view of Park and further in view of Sjonell (US-5,042,496).

According to the Examiner, Shirasaki discloses a device for detecting arterial pressure that comprises all the features of pending claim 11, apart from the storage of data in chart form. The Examiner is of the opinion that since Park disclose pulse wave storage in chart form then the combination of the two prior art documents would lead the skilled man to the device as claimed in claim 11.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Shirasaki and Park for the following reasons.

First of all, Shirasaki does not disclose a device in which the sphygmia pulses are detected by a combination of an electronic unit that automatically detects the pulses generated by the arterial pulsation and of a technique, performed by an operator, to detect the systolic and diastolic pressure.

Figure 8 of Shirasaki only illustrates a pulse detected by the device, but Shirasaki neither discloses nor suggests that all the detected sphygmia pulses are shown in chart form and can be inspected by an operator at a later time.

As a further and even more important consideration, Shirasaki does not disclose that the pulses detected by the device in an automated manner are "integrated" on the same chart with the pulses that the operator detects by a manual detection.

This combined detection of pulses leads to a device that integrates electronic and manual detection of the sphygmia pulses.

On the other hand, Park does not teach a device or method that stores and displays the pulse beats and, above all, does not teach a device or method that integrates the electronic detection with the manual detection.

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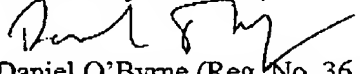
Thus, even the combination of Shirasaki with Park would not lead the skilled man in the art to devise a device as claimed in claim 11.

The above considerations also apply to independent claims 17, 21 and 27, wherein claims 17 and 27 have been amended in conformity with amended claim 11.

The application is thus believed to be in order for acceptance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner need further clarifications, an informal interview with the Examiner would be appreciated.

In any case the applicant is open to any suggestion the Examiner may have to improve the wording of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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